



One Hundred Years Ago, On August
7, 1839, Abraham Lincoln Became
The Temporary President Of The
Springfield Town Council.



Abraham Lincoln
and the Springfield Town Council



Dr. Louis A. Warren
Lincoln National Life Foundation
Fort Wayne Indiana

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On August 7, 1839, Abraham
Lincoln Became The President
Pro Tem Of The Board Of
Trustees For The Town Of
Springfield. S S S S S



— A man's duty to God and man free,
ordained,

ON AUGUST 7, 1839, Abraham Lincoln, novice member of the Springfield Board of Trustees, was chosen president *pro tem.* of that dignified body. The honor was usually consigned to the several members of the Board during the absence of President C. R. Matheny. The death of Matheny some weeks later necessitated the selection of a new president and P. C. Canedy, a board member, finally given the post.

☆ ☆ *

Lincoln's membership in the Town Council is worthy of study. It would appear that his part in the Council was one of extraordinary importance in view of the fact that the people of Springfield were already clamoring for a change in form of government. The removal of the State Capital to Springfield evidently inspired Lincoln with new ambition, and Lincoln, because he was the logical man to guide the bill through the house. Membership in the council seems to have been the spur which induced Lincoln to complete his task effectively.

The Board of Trustees of 1839 is notable in the history of Springfield. The rapidity with which events were taking place in that vociferous era must have made Springfield an interesting place in which to live. Slavery was already a reality, political parties were to be seen on the horizon, while the town's social magnificence was almost without parallel. With these palmy days came the days of the clumsy machinery of town government.

the more practical organization of city-hood. Thus, in this environment, Lincoln the Town Trustee was to do his part.

In contrast with our present complex governmental absurdities, the Lilliputian version of Lincoln's day is interesting. At the meetings presided over by Lincoln, the naive business of the council consisted of decisions on a property tax rate of one-quarter of one percent, and the appointment of a collector to collect the same. A petition for a stone culvert was accepted upon the agreement of the inhabitants to defray a part of the cost. The trustees of the Northern Cross Railroad, whose railroad was also instructed to run carrying off water, "instead of to run, through the town to the great injury of some of its inhabitants." Such were some of the problems confronting the Town Council of Trustees.

The few meetings at which Lincoln presided were interesting in that the office of town council is generally recognizable with that of the mayor of a city. This, auspicious indeed, was Lincoln's single sojourn into municipal politics.

THEODORE S. CHARENTE

Editor of the *Lincoln Herald*,
Town Clerk in session, Prentiss
Street, Montauk Street, Cutchogue,

Calendar of 1939 Events

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THE POOR RICHARD PRESS
5053 Montana Street
Chicago, Illinois

Kindly enter my subscription for the number of cachets I have marked above, for which I enclose \$.....

Name.....

Address.....

City and State.....



THE OLD STATE HOUSE—VANDALIA
This cachet (in four colors) used on covers mailed from Vandalia on February 23rd and March 4th, 1939.

A Series of Abraham Lincoln Commemorative Cachets



FIRST LOGAN COUNTY COURT HOUSE—FORMERLY AT POSTVILLE
This cachet (in four colors) used on covers mailed from Lincoln on June 13th, 1939.

BY WAY OF EXPLANATION

Historically minded individuals are always happy to hear about historical observances. Many different methods have been adopted to properly observe historic dates and events, but perhaps one of the most interesting and certainly the most inexpensive is the medium of the postal cachet. Although this method of observance has been in general practice among stamp collectors for the past ten years or more, its significance is not entirely understood by the general public, indeed, even a sizeable portion of the stamp collecting fraternity is unaware of its real significance. The root of the word *cachet* (pronounced *cash-shay*) is itself shrouded in obscurity. As it is generally known to stamp and cover collectors, the *cachet* is a special marking in type-set or pictorial form or both, affixed to the left half of an envelope. The marking invariably portrays some event about to take place or some event that is to be celebrated in anniversary procedure. To give the *cachet* its real significance it is then necessary to post or mail the envelope on the date upon which the event is to take place or the anniversary observed. In the great majority of cases the mailing of the *cacheted* envelope is effected at the post office in the town or city where the event is to take place or where the event originally took place. Collectors desiring copies of *cacheted* material usually subscribe for their covers in advance of the mailing date and the *cachets* are subsequently mailed direct to the subscriber. The *cachet* is in itself, a memorial, a symbol of faith which our generation places in the heritage handed down from the past as well as a confidence in the future destinies of our nation.

A SERIES OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN COMMEMORATIVE CACHETS.

As we grow in years and mind we come to appreciate that a duty devolves upon us. In some shape or form we try to perpetuate our existence through the perpetuity attained by those who have gone before us. Our individual creations are simply the work of our minds and experience, and if we can instill in them an inspirational quality, a beneficial, though probably nameless immortality will be ours. With this thought in mind, the POOR RICHARD PRESS of Chicago, Illinois, is publishing a series of historical commemorative *cachets* designed to portray important events in the life of Abraham Lincoln. Through this interesting medium the publishers hope to contribute a genuine interest in the life of the great emancipator whose name has always been kept green, but whose real life is not entirely understood by a great many people.

The series of *cachets* now being published, attempts to interpret the effect that each seemingly small but significant event, settled upon Lincoln's life. The procedure followed to attain this end is simple. It consists of selecting the incidents and episodes that gravitate toward a progressive trend, affix to them by careful research a definite date, and issue a *cachet* symbolizing the event at the place where the incident originally occurred. Many of these incidents were, to Lincoln himself, quite commonplace, but in the perspective of the years separating his life from ours we have come to look upon each occurrence as a stepping stone for the next. Aside from the educational benefit derived from such material, the *cachet* can be used locally as an instrument designed to awaken the public to the task set before them in preserving the lessons of yesteryear. We earnestly hope that local, civic, educational and patriotic organizations will recognize this quality, and we invite them to join with us in the proper commemoration of the events to be observed.

A WORD ABOUT OUR CACHETS

No expense has been spared to create an interest in this series that will rival if not surpass any other in *cachet* history. First, the idea in itself is unique. It offers the collector an opportunity to specialize and thus construct a modest collection embracing a subject completely, rather than a hodge-podge of *cachets*, many in number, but lacking a respectable continuity and telling its story imperfectly. Second, we believe the *cachets* in themselves combine the best artistic workmanship and the high traditions of the printer's craft. They are executed in a woodcut technique by a skilled and competent commercial artist and tastefully reproduced in four colors of ink by the letterpress process. The *cachets* are pictorial in theme and invariably illustrate a landmark or building of historic interest, entirely in keeping with the event in question. The envelopes used are of a good grade, thus insuring permanence. In an effort to tell the story in all possible completeness, each envelope carries an enclosure in the form of a leaflet or booklet, depending upon the amount of explanatory matter necessary to relate the theme. These are printed on an excellent grade of text paper in two colors of ink harmonizing favorably with the *cachet*. Wherever, it is possible, still another enclosure will be included. This will take the form of a memento or souvenir. Perhaps a post card representation or a facsimile of some contemporary newspaper item, original document, or letter that has a definite connection with the event. However, in many cases it is impossible to obtain suitable material of this kind, but wherever it can be obtained, inclusion will be automatic.

Interested parties are invited to subscribe to this series. A charge of 10c is made for each cover and its enclosures. The covers bearing the *cachets* are mailed direct to subscribers from the scene of the original events. A person need not subscribe to the entire series if they do not so desire. Those events which are of most interest to an individual may be ordered separately. The charge remains the same, 10c for each cover.

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FIRST MENARD COUNTY COURT HOUSE—FORMERLY AT PETERSBURG
This cachet (in four colors) used on covers mailed from Petersburg on June 17th, 1939.

Address All Inquiries And Subscriptions To
The Poor Richard Press
5053 Montana Street
Chicago Illinois

Additional copies of this form may be had upon application.



ABRAHAM LINCOLN IN THE SPRINGFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
This cachet (in four colors) used on covers mailed from Springfield on June 24th, 1939.